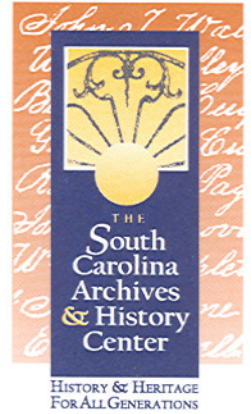


To: Teachers, Students, Friends and Supporters

From: Elizabeth Johnson, Mary Katherine Marshall, and Don Stewart

Date: August 25, 2009

Subject: National History Day 2009-2010 Update



We hope everyone is enjoying a great start to the new school year and is ready to start working on those History Day projects about Innovation in History!

We at the S.C. Department of Archives and History and the S.C. Archives and History Foundation would like to update you on the status of the National History Day program in South Carolina.

On August 4 we had a great meeting with some of the regional coordinators and teachers who have participated in the program. We talked about plans for the future, and the current challenges facing us as we implement the program for 2009-2010. It was an encouraging meeting, as the value and importance of continuing this exceptional educational program was shared by all.

However, as many of you are aware, we have real challenges ahead of us. The former state coordinator for the program, Joel Walker, left Archives and History last January to take a job with the National Archives in Atlanta coordinating educational programs. Joel had done a wonderful job of building up the program, and building relationships with many of you. He is sorely missed.

With the deep state budget cuts last year that have continued into this state fiscal year, the agency has not been able to replace Joel with a full-time coordinator. The three of us are working together to continue the state program, with the support of many of you. We are fortunate that this academic year we will have the help of Justin McIntyre, a graduate student from the Public History Program at the University of South Carolina. He will be working as our graduate assistant 20 hours a week. He has already provided updates to the website, and is working on a master database with updated contact information. You can contact him at jmcintyre@scdah.state.sc.us, or 803-896-6212.

We hope to pull outside funding together to hire a part-time coordinator for the school year to meet with teachers and students to explain the program and coordinate the statewide contest.

We appreciate your support and patience as we learn the ins and outs of the program. We will do our best to provide timely information, answer your questions, or put you in touch with someone who can. We look forward to seeing many outstanding projects at the state contest on Saturday, April 24, 2010.